

what you can do

Show your children how to play with your dog safely. Teaching a dog tricks, playing games like 'fetch', 'hide the toy' and going for walks all help ensure your dog is positively engaged within a controlled activity.

RESPECT A DOG'S PERSONAL SPACE

Show your children that poking, patting, tugging are all things that may frighten or surprise a dog. When dog is surprised it may bite instinctively without warning.

EMPATHY

Help your child empathise with your dog. This means helping them think about how the dog is feeling and to recognise when it is becoming tired, anxious, over excited or frustrated. This means children must be taught the warning signs and not simply assume their pet won't ever bite them. A wagging tail does not mean a dog won't bite – it may be in a state of high excitement.

TIME OUT

Your dog should have a safe place in your home where they can choose to go when they want some 'time out'. This may be a bed in a corner or preferably a crate. This is their space and children should be encouraged to respect it. We all need space sometimes!







SUPERVISE

Always supervise young children with a dog. This means watching the dog and the child at all times. Remember a bite incident can happen in a moment and leave a child with life long scars or worse.

warning signs

Dogs communicate by body language and you must try to learn to recognise signs that your dog is relaxed and when it is tense, nervous or unhappy. There are no fixed stages before a dog will bite. Remember your dog may bite without warning so keep your children's hands and face away from its mouth at all times.

SIGNS A DOG MAY BE UNHAPPY, NERVOUS OR EVEN OVER EXCITED:

-  Tense body
-  Turning his head away and looking away
-  Licking his lips
-  Showing the whites of his eyes
-  Moving away
-  Lips pulled back with teeth exposed

find out more

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Dogs are excellent family pets. They can be great company for adults and children – and keep you fit!

Just like any member of your family, dogs need to feel safe and respected. If a dog becomes, irritated, scared, nervous, tired and even over excited they may bite.

Most bite incidents are by a family dog or one known to the child.

Small children and those under 9 years are usually bitten on the face and neck. Such instances can cause long term scars and may, in some instances, be fatal.

Dogs, large or small, pedigree or mixed breed, will bite in the wrong circumstances, and that is why we, their owners, must watch for the danger signs before it's too late.



RESPECT & KEEP SAFE

respect

children should play appropriate games with your pet, like fetch, teaching tricks and going for walks - a dog should never be made to feel uncomfortable



supervise

a bite can happen in an instant - always be there to ensure the dog and child respect each other and don't play too ruff

time out

make sure your dog has a safe and quiet place of their own to go to and be by themselves

